

CLAIMS:

1. A method comprising:
maintaining packaging data with a centralized packaging data (CPD) management system, wherein the packaging data defines types of packaging materials for use within an enterprise, and includes specification data that defines one or more characteristics for each of the types of packaging materials; and
generating a commodity profile for a selected one of the types of packaging materials, wherein the commodity profile includes at least one electronic report that correlates costs of packaging materials purchased by the enterprise with the one or more characteristics of the selected one of the types of packaging materials.
2. The method of claim 1, further comprising executing a computer-implemented process to automatically generate the commodity profile.
3. The method of claim 1, wherein the costs comprise enterprise-wide costs maintained by the CPD management system.
4. The method of claim 1, further comprising maintaining spend data with the CPD management system that specifies the costs for the packaging materials purchased by the enterprise.
5. The method of claim 4, wherein generating the commodity profile comprises automatically generating the commodity profile with the CPD management system based on the spend data and the packaging data.
6. The method of claim 5, wherein automatically generating the commodity profile comprises invoking a report generation module of the CPD management system to automatically retrieve the specification data and the spend data for the selected one of the types of packaging materials, and automatically generate the electronic report of the

commodity profile based on the retrieved specification data and the retrieved spend data for the selected one of the types of packaging materials.

7. The method of claim 4, further comprising:
accessing the CPD management system to retrieve the corresponding specification data and spend data for the selected the packaging material; and
manually generating the electronic report of the commodity profile based on the retrieved specification data and the retrieved spend data for the selected one of the types of packaging materials.
8. The method of claim 1, wherein the one or more characteristics comprise attributes and specifications of the types of packaging material.
9. The method of claim 1, further comprising:
generating supplier profiles for one or more suppliers of the packaging materials of the selected one of the types of packaging materials; and
implementing a strategy for procurement of the packaging materials based on the commodity profile and the supplier profiles.
10. The method of claim 9, wherein each supplier profile describes financial information for a respective one of the suppliers.
11. The method of claim 9, wherein each of the supplier profiles describe a current supplier of the packaging materials to the enterprise or a candidate supplier that may be used for future procurement of the packaging materials.
12. The method of claim 9, wherein each supplier profile describes strengths, weaknesses, opportunities, and threats for a respective one of the suppliers.
13. The method of claim 1, further comprising:

generating a market profile that identifies a current state of markets that affect the purchase of commodities by the enterprise;

implementing a strategy for procurement of the packaging materials based on the commodity profile and the market profile.

14. The method of claim 1, further comprising implementing a strategy for procurement of the packaging materials in view of the commodity profile.

15. A method comprising:

generating a commodity profile for a type of packaging material, wherein the commodity profile describes a current state of consumption of the type of packaging material by an enterprise;

generating a market profile that identifies a current state of one or more markets that affect the purchase of commodities by the enterprise;

generating a supplier profile for one or more suppliers of packaging materials of the type of packaging material; and

implementing a strategy for procurement of the packaging material based on the commodity profile, the market profile and the supplier profiles.

16. The method of claim 15, wherein the commodity profile identifies one or more characteristics of the type of packaging material, and includes at least one electronic report that associates respective enterprise-wide costs for procurement of the packaging materials of the type of packaging material with each of the characteristics of the type of packaging material.

17. A system comprising:

a centralized packaging data (CPD) management system that stores packaging data that defines types of packaging materials used within an enterprise, and spend data that specifies costs for procurement of packaging materials of the defined types of packaging materials; and

a reporting module executing on the CPD management system, wherein the reporting module generates an electronic report for a selected one of the types of packaging materials, wherein the electronic report associates respective portions of the costs of the spend data with the characteristics of the selected one of the types of packaging materials.

18. The system comprising wherein the costs comprise enterprise-wide costs maintained by the CPD management system.

19. The system of claim 17, wherein the reporting module generates a commodity profile that includes the electronic report as one of a plurality of electronic reports based on the portion of the spend data and the selected one of the types of packaging materials.

20. The system of claim 17, wherein CPD management system maintains the packaging data to include specification data that defines characteristics for each of the types of packaging materials, and further wherein the reporting module generates the electronic report to associate respective portions of the costs with the characteristics of the selected one of the types of packaging materials.

21. The system of claim 20, wherein the report generation module:
accesses the specification data to identify the characteristics of the selected one of the types of packaging materials,
retrieves the respective portions of the spend data corresponding to the identified characteristics, and
generates the electronic report of the commodity profile based on the retrieved specification data and the retrieved spend data for the packaging materials of the selected one of the types of packaging materials.

22. The system of claim 20, wherein the characteristics comprise attributes and specifications of the types of packaging materials.

23. A computer-readable medium comprising instructions that cause a processor to:

access packaging data and spend data stored by a centralized packaging data (CPD) management system, wherein the packaging data identifies types of packaging materials for use within an enterprise and the spend data specifies costs for procurement of packaging materials of the identified types of packaging materials;

receive input from a user selecting one of the types of packaging materials; and

generate an electronic report for a selected one of the packaging materials, wherein the electronic report associates a respective portion of the costs of the spend data with the characteristics of the selected one of the types of packaging materials.

24. The computer-readable medium of claim 23, wherein the costs comprise enterprise-wide costs.

25. The computer-readable medium of claim 23, wherein the instructions cause the processor to generate a commodity profile that includes the electronic report as one of a plurality of electronic reports based on the portion of the spend data and the selected one of the types of packaging materials.

26. The computer-readable medium of claim 23, wherein CPD management system maintains the packaging data to include specification data that defines characteristics for each of the types of packaging materials, and further wherein instructions cause the processor to generate the electronic report to associate respective portions of the costs with the characteristics of the selected one of the types of packaging materials.